

THE Inyo County News-Letter

A News Alternative • Eastern Sierra News Service

60¢

INDEPENDENCE CAL. 93526

April 24, 1979

Congressman Thomas had a lot of help

CAMPAIGN DONORS LISTED P.6

The Pearson proposal

A COUNCILMAN'S PLAN WOULD REDUCE FEES AND END THE CITY'S ROLE AS MIDDLE-MAN

PEARSON WOULD DUMP LICENSE FEES, SEWER CHARGES, AND REDUCE THE "BED TAX"

A FEW HARDENED GOVERNMENT-WATCHERS may see him as naive, but an increasing number in Bishop seem to be taking ever more seriously Peter Pearson's stated position: That he takes very seriously the "spirit" of Proposition 13 and that he shares with a tax-weary constituency the view that taxes are to be cut.

Last week, Pearson was pressed for a

response to rumors he had a new fee-cutting plan up his sleeve. And with characteristic candor he talked about it with reporters from the news service.

Councilman Pearson's proposal would virtually end some of Bishop's municipal fee systems, and if implemented would put money back into private hands (or not take it in the first place); It also places responsibility for certain financial needs squarely back on the people and on the business community. Only about \$30,000 is involved in one initial proposal - no staggering amount but, at least, as the councilman himself says, "It's a start in the right direction."



Councilman Pearson Taking 13 seriously

And where would he begin?

"First," said Pearson, "I would propose that the city government cease to be a collection agency for special non-governmental entities; specifically, the chamber of commerce."

The chamber gets \$50,000 a year from the city's general fund, but Pearson's plan presents an alternative:

"I would repeal the business license fee (\$31,400 estimated for 1978-79), and this

(PEARSON'S PLAN Continued on back page)

The COUNTY

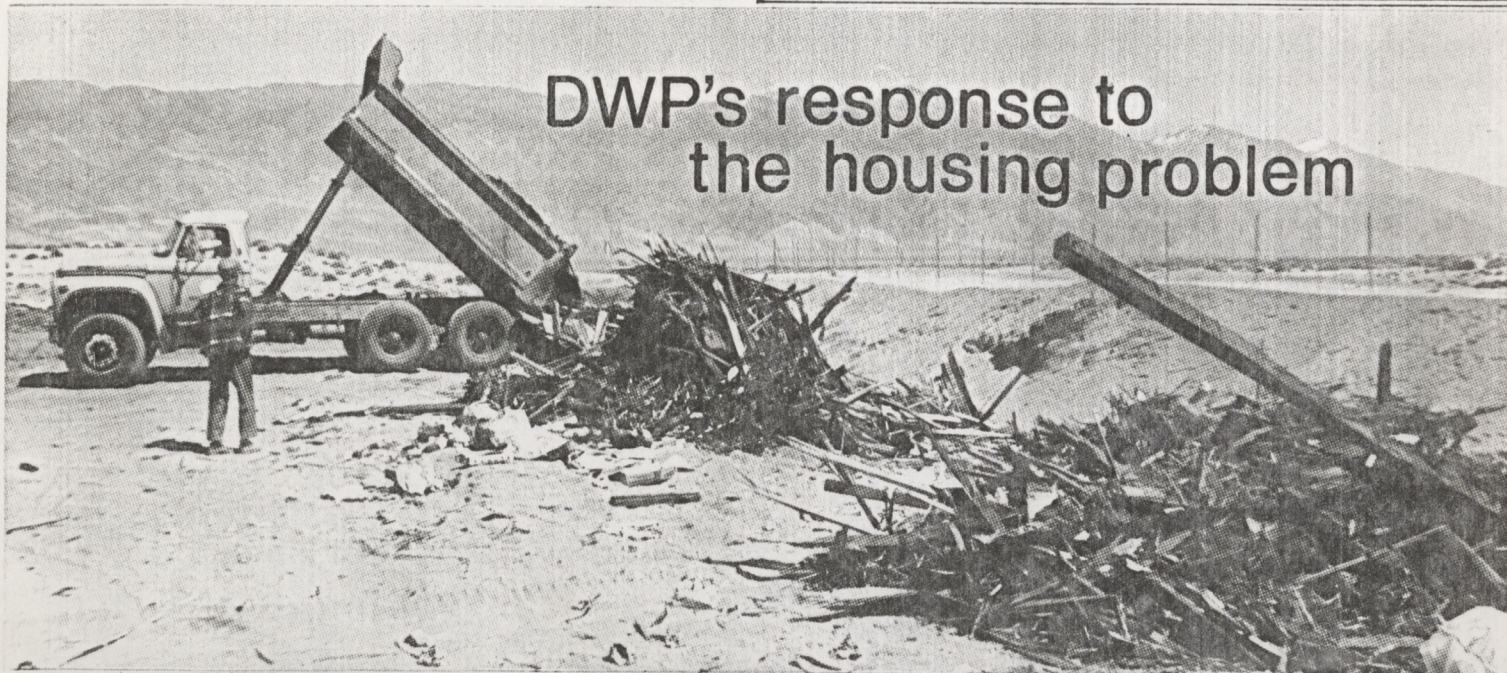
NEWS BRIEFS

MORALE ISSUE FLARES ANEW AT THE LONE PINE HOSPITAL; ANOTHER FLIP-FLOP ON PARK FEES; HOUSING AUTHORITY ADOPTED

IN SPITE OF ADMINISTRATION EFFORTS to clean up longstanding problems with financing and to provide clearer direction of hospital policy, it appeared last week that Southern Inyo Hospital's problems were far from over. Early in the week - on the day before the hospital board was to meet - word leaked out that hospital personnel had circulated a petition among workers demanding that the board fire its acting hospital administrator Jerry Zeutzius. He had served in that position for several months, ever since Administrator Pinney resigned under fire. The administrative seat at Lone Pine's Hospital has long been a hot one, targeted for criticism by forces inside the hospital and from aspiring political elements without. On the day of the meeting, the board was presented with the petition - It came unannounced, although Board Chairman W. Paul Payne had been apprised of its existence

(NEWS BRIEFS Continued on Page 12)

DWP's response to the housing problem

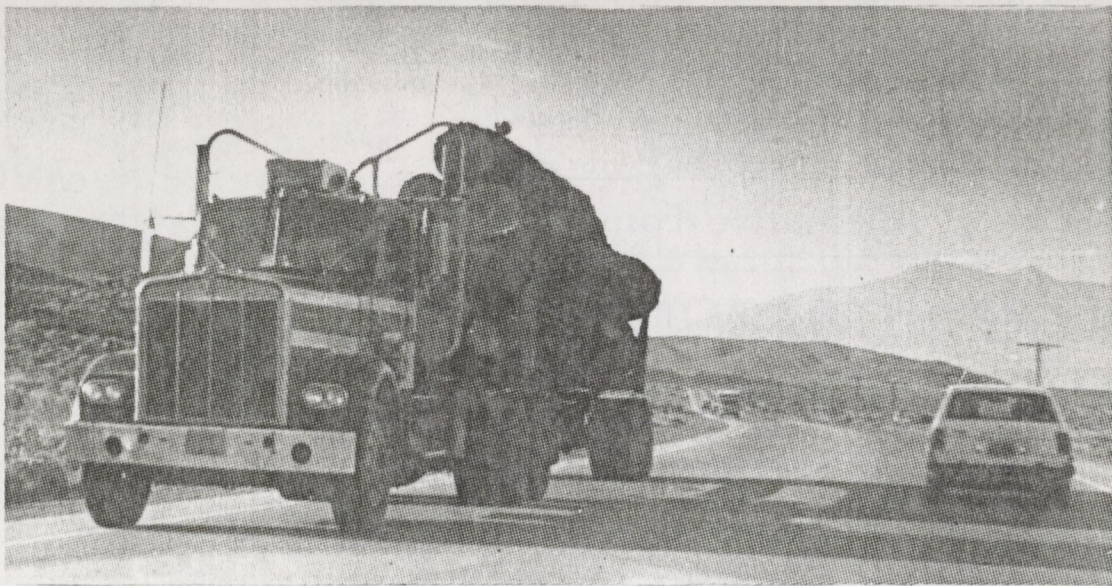


At Independence, another DWP-owned house was splintered by a bulldozer and hauled to the dump. DWP refuses to rent its houses, or to keep them up, preferring instead to tear them down in the face of a critical housing shortage. Some local people were angered over the fact DWP allowed no opportunity to salvage usable timbers.

'Wilderness' and timber

WITH THE CLOSING OF
TIMBERLANDS, INYO'S
LUMBER MILL LAYS OFF
20 WORKMEN AND SHUTS
DOWN ONE WORK SHIFT

And "RARE II"
will cause
further closing
of lumbering
activities



Mammoth area timber on the way to the mill in Southern Inyo

AS THE MAMMOTH AREA TIMBERING SEASON GOT UNDERWAY THIS YEAR, Inyo's Louisiana-Pacific sawmill went back to work with only about 80% of its work force. Twenty or more jobs at the mill went by the way as the Golden Trout Wilderness area was established and about 300,000 acres of timberlands were removed from access to lumbermen.

And the implementation of RARE II - a Forest Service wilderness project - will have further impact on the mill and, subsequently, the Inyo economy. Mill Manager Mel Barber told news reporters last week that he is not yet certain exactly what the RARE II impact will be. Louisiana Pacific's forester, Dave Wise, said that he wasn't sure just how many acres would become off limits. But Wise did say that the Forest Service's plans for wilderness cut even deeper into the mill's supply in Inyo county.

Barber said the 20-or-so workmen laid off because of the Golden Trout Wilderness timber cutback were "disheartened." Most of them live in the Lone Pine, Olancho and Inyo-kern areas. He said he had no immediate figures, in dollar amounts, what the wage losses mean in the Southern Inyo economy.

Louisiana-Pacific's trucks and lumbermen range widely in the San Bernardino, Sequoia and Inyo forests, so there is little likelihood that it will close down entirely, but federal wilderness plans for all of those areas may mean bad news for the mill. The Golden Trout project itself reduced the mill's annual output by about 24 million board feet. Wise expressed some dismay at the figure for, as he said, "About that many trees die in the area anyway." Forest Service personnel admit that dead and dying trees falling to the ground present one of the "biggest" fire hazards.

Said Barber: "I believe in 'wilderness' but with all the acres they have, the likelihood of people going in to enjoy them is nil. It doesn't make sense - and now our production is down."

For years, the lumbermen have observed certain conservation guidelines. For instance, they do not cut trees in the Mammoth area "except when the snow is on the ground," a difficult process, but one which prevents damage to a certain kind of bush growing in the area. The mill's loggers work in the area only about two months of each year, a period that will end in the next two or three weeks.

Until the Golden Trout Wilderness project was established the Inyo mill hired about a 100 men working two shifts. There may be further cutbacks, depending on which way the Forest Service outlines its RARE II map.

Inroads by BLM and USFS bureaus have closed down a considerable amount of the

state timber industry. Johnsondale, a lumbering community north of Kernville, was literally removed from the map as the acreage around it became off-limits to the loggers. There, Bendix Forest Products went out of business and along with it the town's schools, business houses - even its postoffice. Unlike Inyo's towns, it was a one-industry community.

The mill owners were not unaware of the dim future of lumbering in this area. "When they came up with the Golden Trout Wilderness we knew what areas were to be cut out. And then a man from the Bureau of Reclamation from Bishop came down with a portfolio on RARE II."

Even though the Forest Service program is not yet in effect, all logging in the proposed area has been closed down. When will the final designations be made? "I don't know," said Barber, a fact which leaves the mill at a stalemate in terms of long-range planning.

The clear-cut policies of the government wilderness programs are expected to have further impact on the Inyo economy - a fact commented upon by Inyo's congressman in another story on these pages. Mining, tourism, and other contributors to the local economy are to be affected, although the extent of the effect is as yet unknown.

As for Louisiana-Pacific, the economic impact may be greater than many might believe. The company is one of the county's largest tax payers, and last year fed well over \$100,000 into the county tax office.

"Jobs" mean perhaps more to Inyo than "taxes," however, particularly in the Southern Inyo area. In the Little Lake country of the southern reaches - where the sawmill is located, residents are now signing petitions demanding that the Red Hill Cinder Cone be okayed for mining in order to provide jobs. That issue is as yet undecided.

Meanwhile, Louisiana-Pacific's trucks continue to roll down Highway 395 - about 10 truckloads a day, each bearing some 5,000 board feet of timber. How long the Inyo-Mono logging activity will last is anybody's guess.

No one yet seems able to turn up with a balance - industry/conservation - suitable to everybody.

Propwash of anger in Sierra Pacific wake

BARRING AN ADVERSE COURT RULING, THE LOCAL AIRLINE WILL DEPART; IT MAY HAVE SABOTAGED ITS OWN SERVICE HERE TO MAKE THE BIG BUCKS GUARANTEED IN A FOREST SERVICE GOVERNMENT CONTRACT

PROBABLY THOSE MOST HURT WHEN SIERRA PACIFIC DISCONTINUES ITS SERVICE IN INYO COUNTY will be those who need the air service to fly to the southland for medical treatment; many of them cannot bear up under the stress of a four-or-five-hour auto or bus ride. But there was a growing anger last week arising in many other segments of the Bishop-Inyo community when it was charged that the airline had deliberately reduced its service here, in effect sabotaging its own efforts and schedules so it could pull out and get a fat government contract which guarantees a maximum income with a minimum of flying.

Airline spokesmen claim the Bishop service was provided at a loss of \$2000 per day, but Gary McCoy, son of the Mammoth ski entrepreneur who founded the airline, Dave McCoy, said he thinks the new owners of the airline "are trying to make it (service) bad. The Fresno flight was good, and they hurt things with lousy scheduling and flight cancellations. He (the new owner) will make more money on charters."

In recent months there had been increasing complaints here about the service of the airline and about its apparent disregard of the needs or requests of its customers. As for its argument that Bishop is a "loss," regular passengers claim that almost every departure carried a high percentage of filled seats.

Meanwhile it came to light - and it was confirmed by the president of the company now owning Sierra Pacific - that the airline had been offered a fat government contract. Gar Thorsrud, the head of Mountain West, the company that owns SP, said that on May 15 he will use the SP planes on a Forest Service contract to fly firefighters and equipment in New Mexico, Arizona, Oregon and Montana. Under such contracts, plane owners are paid on a standby basis whether their planes are in the air or not.

Thorsrud said he will maintain only one flight to the Eastern Sierra - a flight each day to Mammoth, bypassing Bishop. Sierra Pacific critics - and there appears to be a rapid

proliferation of these - were further angered by the "one flight to Mammoth" statement; they claim that by keeping the Mammoth service more or less "going," Thorsrud may now conveniently increase his schedules there during the winter season in order to pick up on the profitable ski trade - this in the season when the Forest Service no longer needs him.

"He's trying to get it both ways without offering any real service to Bishop where it is needed," said one SP opponent, a Bishop woman who is part of a local protest committee.

And Thorsrud himself makes little effort to deny his position. As for regular civilian flight service, he said he is "considering" an air service in the San

Joaquin Valley area where there are "bigger cities and more money." He did in fact admit that he is also considering an increase of the flights "between Mammoth and LA," and critics saw that admission as verification of their charge that he'd move back into Mammoth when the ski trade makes it seasonably profitable.

McCoy said that Mountain West Airlines' sales agreement with Sierra Pacific guaranteed "service" to Mammoth. Clearly, the ski resort owner would not sell the airline unless there was some guarantee that skiers could fly into Mammoth. But Thorsrud, when asked if he had such an agreement with McCoy, said, "No. We don't." He also denied charges that he had intentionally given bad service in order to get the airline out of Bishop. "That's absolutely not true," he said.

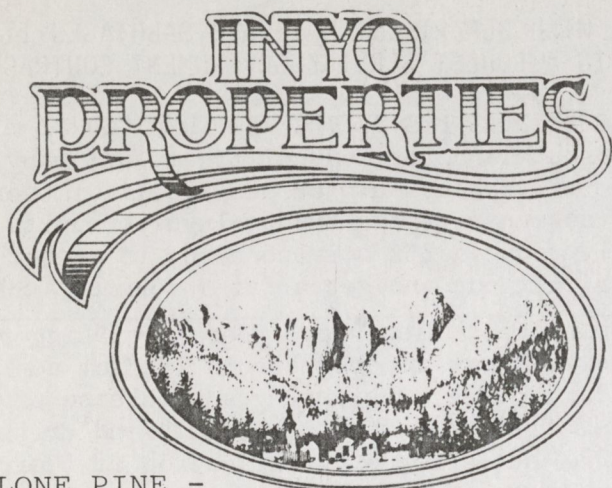
Some responsible media people here and in Los Angeles, however, had only recently seen evidence supporting the "bad service" claim. A Los Angeles Channel 7 television news producer had asked the local SP public relations spokesman to hold a flight to LA for no more than three minutes in order to get some "emergency" television news film aboard the flight. Although the public relations man agreed to "see what he could do," the plane took off as the film delivery arrived at the Mammoth airport. The film people saw the incident as only "one of several examples."

As for the contract agreement with the McCoy's, Gary McCoy says that if Thorsrud fails to keep the agreement for the Mammoth service, (See SIERRA PACIFIC on Page 4)



Committeewomen with county supervisor

Alice Ablott and Sue Cory circulated a petition, got 500 names to enlist PUC's help. They talked it over with Supervisor Wilma Muth.



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South Side Of The Dow Villa Hotel...

Across From The Pool - Lone Pine

SIERRA PACIFIC, Continued

"he will lose some things," and will have to
"move off the Bishop airport." The airline
uses hangar and service facilities there.

McCoy agreed, "The airline has not been
a large profit venture." But he also said
that Thorsrud had made no effort "to change
that."

All arguments about service and contracts
aside, a number of Bishop people, some of them
prominent members of the business and profes-
sional community, have organized in hopes of
keeping the air service intact at Bishop. Am-
ong these are two West Bishop women who have
formed a committee. They are Sue Cory, wife of
a prominent biology professor, and Sue Abbott,
wife of a physician and researcher. Their hus-
bands must commute to the Bay area in their
work, and both claimed that they moved to this
area only after getting Sierra Pacific's as-
surance that Bishop will have a flight serv-
ice.

They call their committee - an informal
group - "Eastern Sierra by Air," and by circu-
lating petitions they have already gained 500
names - names of the most prominent and influ-
ential among Bishop's commercial and profess-
ional establishment.

Cory and Abbott want to appeal to the
Public Utilities Commission, asking the PUC to
intercede for airline patrons here - and PUC
has already attempted to do so, a fact which
has brought on the current legal controversy:

Now the question is one of state and fed-
eral authority over airlines serving Californ-
ia: Which has the overall power of regulation?

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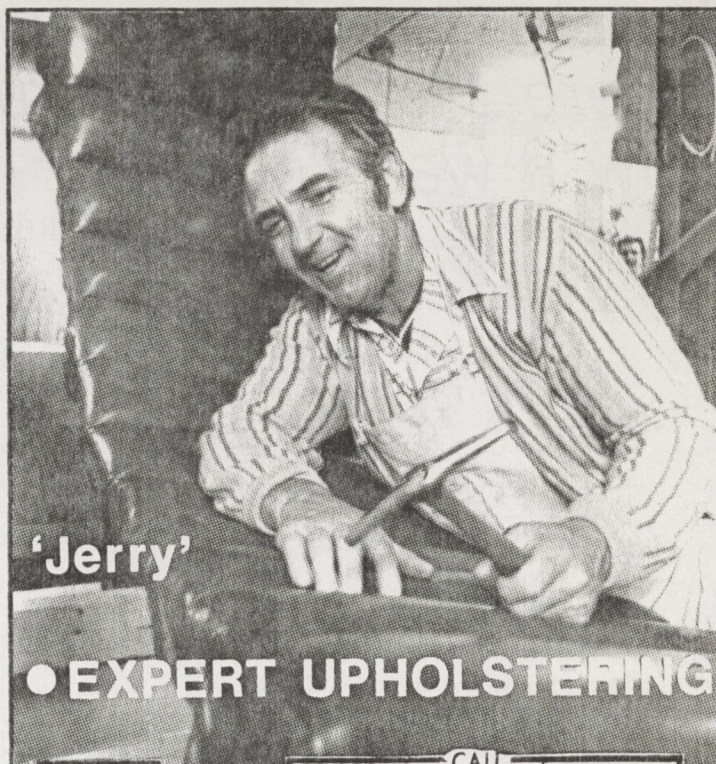
About that issue, Ms. Cory says with some dismay that "the bureaucrats are keeping busy, and they've put Bishop in trouble. It's like watching a chess game to see the next move, and we don't want to be the pawn."

But a "pawn" in fact is just what Bishop may turn out to be. At week's end, here's where the battle of the bureaucracies stood:

In spite of the citizen protest and the attempts of restraint by the Public Utilities Commission, Thorsrud is holding to his plan to pull out of Bishop and maintain only one flight to Mammoth, as of May 13. The battle, which currently creates enough legal maneuverings to favor the airline owners, is now between PUC and the federal Civil Aeronautics Board. They have moved into federal court to determine which agency has the authority, and how much authority, over Sierra Pacific. The PUC had assumed jurisdiction over SP and had demanded a "60-day notice" from the airline before it could arbitrarily pull out of the Bishop air service. But then another airline had meanwhile won a temporary restraining order against PUC and its assumption of jurisdiction over commuter lines, and then asked for a preliminary injunction. That was granted, and it may become permanent after another hearing on May 10.

Thorsrud, moving ahead with his own plans, says Sierra Pacific's role in the legal wrangle is that "of an interested bystander, since the case has bearing on all commuters in California." Until that is settled, then why is he going ahead with his plans to leave Bishop?

(SIERRA PACIFIC Continued on Page 12)



'Jerry'

● EXPERT UPHOLSTERING

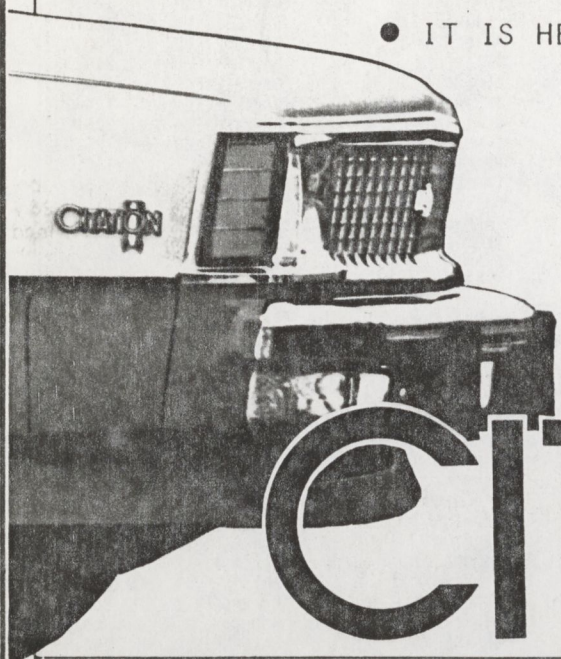
JF

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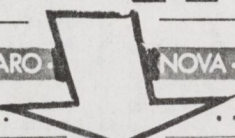
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PINE**

The Thomas Congressional race: Where the money came from and how it was spent



CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT FROM THOMAS' STATEMENT OF CAMPAIGN DONORS WAS ANY NAME FROM INYO COUNTY, BUT AN AIDE SAYS HE HAD "SEVERAL" CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE EASTERN PART OF THE 18th DISTRICT

IF, IN A CONGRESSIONAL POLITICAL CAMPAIGN, IT COSTS \$12,000 in postage alone to send one mail advertisement to the voters of the 18th District (it does), then where will the money come from? How much influence does that money, in the form of campaign donations, have over the performance of the candidate if he is elected?

Questions that are academic perhaps in the very real world of political verities, but questions nonetheless always in the forefront of voters' considerations.

In the case of Congressman Bill Thomas, the amounts involved, though staggering in the everyday thinking of the average voter, are in fact relatively small. He won office on a budget of only about \$170,000-or-less.

(See THOMAS on Page 9)

ITEMIZED EXPENDITURES:

- ITEMS #1 - OFFICE EXPENSES (labeling, postage, printing, precinct lists, telephones, photo services, office supplies, office equipment, copying, printing of invitations and envelopes, survey)
TOTAL EXPENDED: \$ 80,770.62
- #2 - TRAVEL COSTS: (air transport; expense allowances, tickets to Silver Ball, salaries, miscellaneous expenses, gas, food, car rentals)
TOTAL EXPENDED: \$ 15,661.79
- #3 - ENTERTAINMENT COSTS: (catering, wine, liquor, meat)
TOTAL EXPENDED: \$ 4,352.30
- #4 - REIMBURSED EXPENSES: (to individuals, mastercharge payments, petty cash, management services)
TOTAL EXPENDED: \$ 5,267.91
- #5 - CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND (trade-outs for services rendered) (to political committees, consulting services, travel and advancing expenses and a post hole digger)
TOTAL EXPENDED: \$ 5,555.55
- #6 - ADVERTISING EXPENSES: (poster pictures, political commercials, radio and newspaper ads, sign construction, layout services, lumber, posthole digger, sign stakes, promotional writing, signs, decals, bumperstickers)
TOTAL EXPENDED: \$ 50,252.72
- #7 - ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES: (political contributions and miscellaneous)
TOTAL EXPENDED: \$ 5,675.00

GRAND TOTAL OF EXPENDITURES: \$ 166,535.89

BILL THOMAS CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE REPORTS INDIVIDUAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS:

KENNETH G. ANDERSON	FARMER	SHAFER	\$ 500.00
TOLLIE BARTON	FARMER	BAKERSFIELD	300.00
LOWELL BERGMAN	FARMER	SHAFER	500.00
WINIFRED BITTLESTON	HOUSEWIFE	BUTTONWILLOW	250.00
RAYMOND BLAIR	FARMER	BUTTONWILLOW	200.00
I.W.BOSWORTH	OIL PRODUCER	BAKERSFIELD	250.00
EDDIE BRADLEY	FARMER	DELANO	150.00
LEE BROWN	PILOT	DELANO	150.00
JAMES L. BURKE	CAR DEALER	BAKERSFIELD	500.00
JERRY CAPPELLO	FARMER	BAKERSFIELD	200.00
GEORGE CARATON	FARMER	DELANO	300.00
ESTATE OF ANTON CARATON	FARMER	DELANO	300.00
ESTATE OF NIKA CARATON	FARMER	DELANO	500.00
LUIS CARATON	FARMER	DELANO	500.00
MILAN CARATON	FARMER	BAKERSFIELD	250.00
VICTOR S. CERRO	FARMER	LOS ANGELES	200.00
JOHN C. COSGROVE	BUSINESSMAN	LOS ANGELES	200.00
L.L. COSTERISAN	FARMER	BAKERSFIELD	300.00
JOHN CURRADO	INSURANCE AGENT	LANCASTER	150.00
JERRY deMONTMORENCY	BUSINESSMAN	TEHACHAPI	250.00
ANGELO FANUCCHI	FARMER	BAKERSFIELD	150.00
EUGENE FANUCCHI	FARMER	BAKERSFIELD	150.00
GLENN C. FERGUSON	OIL PRODUCER	BAKERSFIELD	250.00
JACK M. FREY	RANCHER	BUTTONWILLOW	125.00
L.A.FREY	RANCHER	BUTTONWILLOW	125.00
GLEN GOLIAS	RETAILER	LANCASTER	150.00
FRANK GARONE	FARMER	BAKERSFIELD	200.00
GEORGE GILLAM	COMMUNICATIONS	BAKERSFIELD	150.00
J.E. GREENE	OIL PRODUCER	LOS ANGELES	500.00
V.D.HOPPER	EXECUTIVE	BAKERSFIELD	250.00
S.L. HUTCHISON	OIL PRODUCER	LOS ANGELES	500.00
MARVIN L. KIRSCHENMANN	FARMER	SHAFER	500.00
JIM KOSTAS	ATTORNEY	PALMDALE	250.00
W.G. LAKE	EXECUTIVE	BAKERSFIELD	200.00
JIM LAWRENCE	FARMER	DELANO	500.00
JAMES B. LINDSAY, JR	EXECUTIVE	BAKERSFIELD	500.00
GEORGE LUSICH	ENGINEER	BAKERSFIELD	500.00
ROBERT MATSUMOTO	BUILDER	BAKERSFIELD	250.00
LARRY MIXON	REAL ESTATE	BAKERSFIELD	250.00
ROLET MOORE	DOCTOR	LANCASTER	150.00
WILLIAM MOSISION, TRUSTEE	FARMER	BAKERSFIELD	250.00
KENNETH McCLANAHAN	FARMER	BAKERSFIELD	250.00
ALBERT McKEE, JR.	BUSINESSMAN	SAN MARINO	200.00
NORMAN OLLIVER	BUSINESSMAN	BAKERSFIELD	200.00
DOROTHY OWENS	EXECUTIVE	BAKERSFIELD	250.00
JACK PANDEL	FARMER	DELANO	1,000.00
CHARLES PARSONS	FARMER	BUTTONWILLOW	200.00
WAYNE PEACOCK	RETIRED	BAKERSFIELD	250.00
LAWTON POWERS	REAL ESTATE	BAKERSFIELD	1,000.00
JOHN R. PULSKAMP	DOCTOR	BAKERSFIELD	500.00
E.D.RIED	GEOLOGIST	BAKERSFIELD	250.00
FRED STARRH	FARMER	SHAFER	750.00
THOMAS F. SCHROETER	ATTORNEY	BAKERSFIELD	750.00
W.F. SCHROETER	LAW CLERK	BAKERSFIELD	250.00
F.R. SMITH	EXECUTIVE	BAKERSFIELD	1,000.00
T.W.SMITH	EXECUTIVE	BAKERSFIELD	250.00
FRANK R. STOCKTON	RANCHER	BAKERSFIELD	250.00
JACK STOKES	RANCHER	BAKERSFIELD	500.00
RAY TRICHELL	EXECUTIVE	BAKERSFIELD	250.00
DICK VANDAM	DAIRYMAN	LANCASTER	250.00
MICHAEL H. WALLACE	HEAVY EQUIPMENT	OXNARD	250.00
JIM D. WEAVER	REAL ESTATE	BAKERSFIELD	250.00
KENNETH WADEL	FARMER	WASCO	200.00
HAROLD WEATH	BUSINESSMAN	BAKERSFIELD	250.00
KENNETH WEGIS	FARMER	BUTTONWILLOW	250.00

JIM WILLIAMS	HEALTH CARE	BAKERSFIELD	150.00
EUGENE WINER	CAR DEALER	BAKERSFIELD	250.00
WILLIAM T. WRIGHT	CAR DEALER	BAKERSFIELD	250.00
DAVID YUOSCK	AGRICULTURE	LAMONT	250.00
NICK ZANINERICH	FARMING	DELANO	200.00
TERRY INGRAM	HEAVY EQUIPMENT	DELANO	400.00
TONY AFFENTRANGER	DAIRY FARMER	BAKERSFIELD	250.00
DONALD ANDREWS	FARMER	BAKERSFIELD	250.00
LELAND BELL	FARMER	SHAFER	250.00
RAYBURN DEZEMBER	BANKER	BAKERSFIELD	250.00
J.E.GREENE	OIL EXECUTIVE	LOS ANGELES	500.00
JACK MAGUIRE	RETIRED	BAKERSFIELD	250.00
KENNETH MEBANCE	CATTLEMAN	SHAFER	200.00
BILL PARK	GEOLOGIST	BAKERSFIELD	250.00
F.C. PORTER	CONSULTING GEOLOGIST	BAKERSFIELD	250.00
M.G. SEAMAN	RETIRED	BAKERSFIELD	250.00
DALE J. SILVA	BUSINESSMAN	HAYWARD	250.00
ARLO G. SORENSON	OIL EXECUTIVE	LOS ANGELES	500.00
DONALD VALPREDO	FARMING	BAKERSFIELD	125.00
JOHN VALPREDO	blank	BAKERSFIELD	125.00
STEPHEN E. WALL	ATTORNEY	BAKERSFIELD	200.00
WARD WATERMAN	RETIRED	BAKERSFIELD	250.00
CARROL J. BLYTHE	GEOLOGIST	BAKERSFIELD	150.00
JACK BROCKHOUSE	IRRIGATION ENGINEER	BAKERSFIELD	125.00
FLOYD BURCHAM	MERCHANT	BAKERSFIELD	225.00
OWEN CLARK	PLUMBER	BAKERSFIELD	125.00
WARRNE J. FOX	REALTOR	DELANO	150.00
KEN FRICK	FARMER	ARVIN	575.00
ED GREEN	DRILLING CONTRACTOR	BAKERSFIELD	175.00
ROBERT E. HERRICK	FARMING CO. EXECUTIVE	BAKERSFIELD	125.00
DAN INGRAM	REALTOR	TEHACHAPI	278.00
JOHN J. KOVACEVICH	FARMER	ARVIN	300.00
RICHARD R. LEWIS	RETIRED	LAKE HUGHES	150.00
JOHN R. MONTGOMERY	PHYSICIAN	DELANO	250.00
L. ARTHUR MOORE	PHYSICIAN	BAKERSFIELD	150.00
WILLIAM MOORE	BUSINESSMAN	BAKERSFIELD	150.00
JACK PHILLIPS	TRUCKER	DELANO	150.00
JOHN R. STRETCHER	SALESMAN	BAKERSFIELD	150.00
LOREN STROOPE	REALTOR	BAKERSFIELD	125.00
KENNETH C. TWISSELMAN II	ATTORNEY	McKITTRICK	145.00
J.A. BIDART	FARMING	BAKERSFIELD	500.00
VERNON H. BLACKBURN, JR	FARMING	ARVIN	250.00
VERNON H. BLACKBURN, SR	FARMING	ARVIN	250.00
FLOYD BURCHAM	MERCHANT	BAKERSFIELD	325.00
JOHN CALANDRI	FARMING	LANCASTER	250.00
W.B. CAMP	FARMING	BAKERSFIELD	200.00
JOSEPH FRANCESCHI	LIQUOR DISTRIBUTOR	BAKERSFIELD	150.00
SIG HOFFMAN	FARMING	EDISON	1,000.00
EDWARDS R. HOPPLE	REAL ESTATE	BAKERSFIELD	600.00
HOWARD G. KECK	OIL INDUSTRY	HOUSTON, TEX.	200.00
GEORGE LUSICH	ENGINEER	BAKERSFIELD	250.00
PHILIP F. MACON	DOCTOR	LANCASTER	500.00
BRUCE L. MARCHBANKS	blank	BAKERSFIELD	200.00
DAVID L. MOORE	FARMING	ARVIN	500.00
K.R.McDONALD	CONSTRUCTION	LANCASTER	750.00
JOHN W. NICOLL	RANCHER	WELDON	250.00
DALTON RICHARDSON	FARMING	BAKERSFIELD	700.00
JOHN B. SILL	FARMING	SHAFER	150.00
RAY TRICHELL	LIQUOR DISTRIBUTOR	BAKERSFIELD	200.00
JOHN E. TURCO	INSURANCE	SAN JOSE	250.00
A.C. WARNACK	blank	LANCASTER	500.00
MARTIN ZANINOVICH	FARMING	DELANO	525.00
JOE G. FANUCCHI	FARMER	ARVIN	450.00
J.B. HAMACHER	LUMBER EXECUTIVE	TERRA BELLA	500.00
O.D.HANDEL	FARMING	SHAFER	200.00
HARRY LUCAS, JR.	OIL EXECUTIVE	HOUSTON, TEX.	200.00
THOMAS J. WARD	ATTORNEY	LANCASTER	246.34
JAMES S. KOSTAS	ATTORNEY	PALMDALE	418.38

Special interest groups funded most of the campaign:

FUNDS FROM POLITICAL COMMITTEES:

CONOCO EMPLOYEES GOOD GOVERNMENT FUND COSTA MESA, CA	\$ 200.00	GOODYEAR POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE AKRON, OHIO	100.00
CONSERVATIVE VICTORY FUND WASHINGTON, D.C.	2,000.00	GUN OWNERS OF AMERICA CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE SACRAMENTO, CA	1,000.00
CONSTRUCTIVE CONGRESS COMMITTEE OF THE EDISON ELECTRIC INSTITUTE WASHINGTON, D.C.	100.00	KEEP RHODES IN CONGRESS COMMITTEE MESA, ARIZONA	500.00
EASTERN AIRLINES POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE WASHINGTON, D.C.	100.00	KNUDSEN EMPLOYEES POLITICAL ACTION FUND LOS ANGELES, CA	500.00
FUND FOR EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT NEW YORK, NEW YORK	300.00	LOCKHEED EMPLOYEES GOOD GOVERNMENT PROGRAM BURBANK, CA	250.00
GOOD GOVERNMENT FUND SAN FRANCISCO, CA	600.00	LITTON EMPLOYEES POLITICAL ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE BEVERLY HILLS, CA	200.00
GREAT WESTERN GOOD GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE BEVERLY HILLS, CA	200.00	NATSO/PAC ALEXANDRIA, VA	500.00
HUGHES ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP CAMPAIGN LOS ANGELES, CA	200.00	NATIONAL CONSERVATIVE PAC ARLINGTON, VA	1,000.00
K-MART NON PARTISAN POLITICAL SUPPORT COMMITTEE TROY, MICHIGAN	500.00	NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENCE BUSINESS PAC SAN MATEO, CA	100.00
LSI-PAC SANTA MONICA, CA	200.00	POLITICAL AWARENESS FUND LOS ANGELES, CA	750.00
MALT BEVERAGE INDUSTRY WELFARE FUND SAN FRANCISCO, CA	300.00	POTLACH EMPLOYEES POLITICAL FUND SAN FRANCISCO, CA	250.00
NL EXECUTIVES VOLUNTARY NONPARTISAN POLITICAL FUND NEW YORK, NEW YORK	300.00	REALTORS POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE CHICAGO, ILL.	1,000.00
OUTDOOR ADVERTISING POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE WASHINGTON, D.C.	400.00	NATIONAL REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE WASHINGTON, D.C.	3,000.00
PARTICIPATION IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS COMMITTEE SAN DIEGO, CA	100.00	REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE WASHINGTON, D.C.	4,000.00
REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL BOOSTERS CLUB WASHINGTON, D.C.	2,500.00	REPUBLICAN STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE LOS ANGELES, CA	4,000.00
TULARE COUNTY REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE EXETER, CA	500.00	BAKERSFIELD REPUBLICAN WOMEN FEDERATED BAKERSFIELD, CA	100.00
SDG&E CITIZENS FOR GOOD GOVERNMENT SAN DIEGO, CA	200.00	RETAIL POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE WASHINGTON, D.C.	100.00
SEARS POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE CHICAGO, ILL.	200.00	SFIPAC ORANGE, CA	250.00
SECURITY PACIFIC ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP TODAY COMMITTEE LOS ANGELES, CA	1,000.00	SEARS POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE CHICAGO, ILL.	150.00
SOUTHERN PACIFIC MANAGEMENT OFFICERS GOOD GOVERNMENT FUND SAN FRANCISCO, CA	1,000.00	TENNECO GOOD GOVERNMENT BAKERSFIELD, CA	500.00
STAUFFER CHEMICAL POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION COMMITTEE WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT	250.00	BILL THOMAS CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE (STATE) BAKERSFIELD, CA	18,777.00
WESTERN DOW EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE FOR FREE ENTERPRISE PITTSBURG, CA	300.00	TITLE INDUSTRY PAC WASHINGTON, D.C.	500.00
AMERICAN DENTAL POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE WASHINGTON, D.C.	1,000.00	WESTERN EGG & POULTRY ACTION COMMITTEE LOS ANGELES, CA	100.00
AMERICAN HOTEL AND MOTEL POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE NEW YORK, NEW YORK	500.00	WORTH PAC FT. WORTH, TEXAS	500.00
AMFAC, INC. PAC SAN FRANCISCO, CA	250.00	HURRICAN TELEPHONE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE NEW YORK, NEW YORK	200.00
ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA PAC WASHINGTON, D.C.	750.00	AUTOMOBILE & TRUCK DEALERS ELECTION ACTION COMMITTEE MCLEAN, VIRGINIA	2,500.00
ATTORNEYS CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGN TRUST CONTRIBUTION ACCOUNT WASHINGTON, D.C.	500.00	BECKMAN POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE FULLERTON, CA	200.00
CALIFORNIA WESTSIDE FARMERS FED PAC FRESNO, CA	250.00	BUSINESS-INDUSTRY POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE WASHINGTON, D.C.	1,000.00
CARTER HAWLEY HALE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE LOS ANGELES, CA	500.00	CALIFORNIA ALMOND GROWERS EXCHANGE COMMITTEE FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT SACRAMENTO, CA	1,000.00
CATTLEMENS ACTION LEGISLATIVE FUND DENVER, COLORADO	200.00	CHEVRON COMMITTEE FOR POLITICAL PARTICIPATION SAN FRANCISCO, CA	750.00
COUGHLIN FOR CONGRESS COMMITTEE NORRISTOWN, PA	200.00	CITIZENS FOR THE REPUBLIC SANTA MONICA, CA	1,000.00
CROWN EMPLOYEES POLITICAL FUND SAN FRANCISCO, CA	300.00	CROCKER INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTARY INVESTMENT IN CITIZENSHIP LOS ANGELES, CA	100.00
CRUM & FERSTOR VOLUNTARY POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE WASHINGTON, D.C.	200.00	COMMITTEE FOR THE SURVIVAL OF A FREE CONGRESS WASHINGTON, D.C.	400.00
DEYTON HUDSON CORPORATION POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.	350.00	COMMODITY FUTURES POLITICAL FUND CHICAGO, ILL.	2,000.00
DOMESTIC PETROLEUM COUNCIL POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE WASHINGTON, D.C.	100.00	CONCERNED CITIZENS FUNDS LOS ANGELES, CA	350.00
DOWELL EMPLOYEES POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE HOUSTON, TEXAS	200.00	AMERICAN MEDICAL POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE CHICAGO, ILL.	5,000.00
FIREMANS FUND OFFICERS COMMITTEE FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT SAN FRANCISCO, CA	500.00	ANHAUSER-BUSCH POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE ST LOUIS, MISS.	500.00
FIVER PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE FRESNO, CA	1,000.00	ASLAND OIL POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE FOR EMPLOYEES ASHLAND, KENTUCKY	500.00
FORD CIVIC ACTION FUND DEARBORN, MICHIGAN	500.00	BOSPAC LOS ANGELES, CA	1,000.00
GAS EMPLOYEES POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE WASHINGTON, D.C.	100.00	CFS PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE LOS ANGELES, CA	150.00

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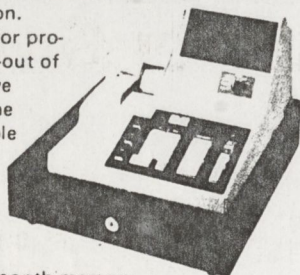


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CIVIC TRUST 80 CHICAGO, ILL.	250.00
COMMITTEE FOR GOVERNMENT IMPROVEMENT BAKERSFIELD, CA	106.79
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE POLICY SAN FRANCISCO, CA	500.00
COMMUNICATIONS ON POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE WASHINGTON, D.C.	150.00
DEL MONTE VOLUNTARY NONPARTISAN GOOD GOVERNMENT FUND SAN FRANCISCO, CA	200.00
EMPLOYERS FOR GOOD GOVT. SAN FRANCISCO, CA	500.00
FEDERAL CITIZENSHIP RESPONSIBILITY GROUP ROSEMEAD, CA	500.00
FURNPAC HIGH POINT, N.C.	200.00
GO/PAC LOS ANGELES, CA	500.00
GOOD GOVERNMENT CLUB SANTA MONICA, CA	800.00
HUPAC MIDLAND, MICHIGAN	300.00
KETCHUM CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE BAKERSFIELD, CA	1,000.00
LIFE UNDERWRITERS POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE WASHINGTON, D.C.	1,000.00
NRA POLITICAL VICTORY FUND WASHINGTON, D.C.	1,000.00
PACTELFEDPAC SAN FRANCISCO, CA	100.00
CLING PEACH GROWERS FOR EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE LAFAYETTE, CA	200.00
PFIZER EMPLOYEES NON PARTISAN GOOD GOVERNMENT FUND NEW YORK, NEW YORK	500.00
POLITICAL ACTION COUNCIL OF EDUCATORS LOS ANGELES, CA	250.00
NON PARTISAN POLITICAL SUPPORT COMMITTEE FOR GENERAL ELECTRIC CO.EMPLOYEES FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT	200.00
NORTHROP EMPLOYEES POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE HAWTHORNE, CA	100.00
OXYPAC LOS ANGELES, CA	2,000.00
PACIFIC LIGHTING POLITICAL ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE LOS ANGELES, CA	1,500.00
PENNY PAC NEW YORK, NEW YORK	250.00
PEPSI CO. CONCERNED CITIZENS FUND PURCHASE, NEW YORK	250.00
REALTORS POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE CHICAGO, ILL.	2,000.00
SOUTH CENTRAL POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE DELANO, CA	100.00
TENNECO GOOD GOVERNMENT FUND HOUSTON, TEXAS	800.00
TEXACO EMPLOYEES POLITICAL INVESTMENT COMMITTEE BAKERSFIELD, CA	500.00
TIGER EMPLOYEES & MANAGEMENT POLITICAL ORGANIZATION LOS ANGELES, CA	300.00
WALPAC (WESTERN AIRLINES) LOS ANGELES, CA	200.00

*...and
the totals:*

BILL THOMAS CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE	
TOTAL RECEIPTS.	\$ 186,838.64
A. CONTRIBUTIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS (INCLUDING CONTRIBUTIONS IN-KIND):	\$ 86,687.22
B. TRANSFERS FROM POLITICAL COMMITTEES:	99,257.62
C. REFUNDS, REBATES, RETURNS OF DEPOSITS:	893.80
TOTAL EXPENDITURES.	\$ 166,535.89
A. OPERATING EXPENDITURES:	163,985.89
B. LOANS, LOAN REPAYMENTS, AND CONTRIBUTION REFUNDS MADE:	250.00
C. TRANSFERS OUT TO POLITICAL COMMITTEES:	2,300.00

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THOMAS, Continued

Many congressmen or congressional candidates have won - or lost - elections by spending far more. In a sense, Thomas was "lucky," in that he sought the congressional seat without having to challenge an entrenched incumbent (That can cost up to a half-million dollars). Congressman Bill Ketchum died suddenly in June, leaving the office vacant. Thomas won the Republican nomination, but he faced a Democratic opponent, Bob Sogge, who had been campaigning for a year. Thomas' campaign committee, headed by Cathy Swajian who is now an aide, had time for only three or four major campaign "fund-raisers."

But they knew where to go: to the farm interests and oilmen, the business conservatives and ranchers that make up the power establishment of the broad valley area west of the Sierra. These made up a hefty 70-80% (depending on their categorizations in the accompanying lists) of the total Thomas campaign contributions. The bulk of the remaining donations came from what may be called "special interest groups," assuming the farm-oil people are not considered as such (They are, in the minds of most voters).

Under a law passed in the post-Watergate years, congressional candidates must file a report with the elections commission listing the details of their campaign contributions and expenditures - if the amounts exceed \$100. Thomas' list, acquired through the Kern County clerk's office (He did not file a report in Inyo County), is listed here.

Absent from the list is any report of even a single donation from Inyo County, a fact which, left unexplained, might give some concern to the Inyo electorate wondering how much representation they might expect. But Congressional Aide Swajian made an effort to explain:

"Because we came into the race late, we had no time to hold a fund-raising campaign there," she said. "But we did have a lot of donations from Inyo, all under \$100." She said she could not immediately recall how much help Thomas got from Inyo. Judging by the election commission statement, however, the amount must have been comparatively small.

As to whether Inyo is getting its fair share of representation, however, the figures may be misleading, if Swajian's claims are to be believed. She said "about half of the congressman's staff" - his legislative assistants in Washington - "spend about 70% of their time working on Inyo County problems: the water issue, the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service's "RARE II" program." She said the congressman has been flooded with mail protesting the BLM "wilderness" issue and (now) by the Forest Service issue. Many in Inyo see the two federal programs as "land grabs" that would deny access to federal lands here. "Most people there are against the programs," said Swajian.

Asked if Thomas is indebted to the big "corporate farm" interests in California as a result of their campaign donations (about 36% of his total campaign collections), she said that "a lot of small farmers" had contributed, "not just the big farms or the corporate farms, but maybe a few of these."

Of the totals listed, most of Thomas' campaign money came from out of state, either from political action committees in Wash-

(Continued on P. 10)

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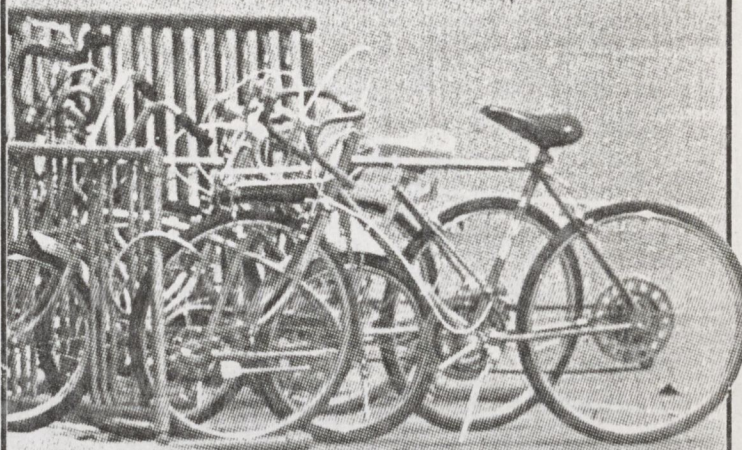
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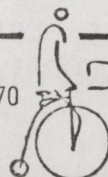
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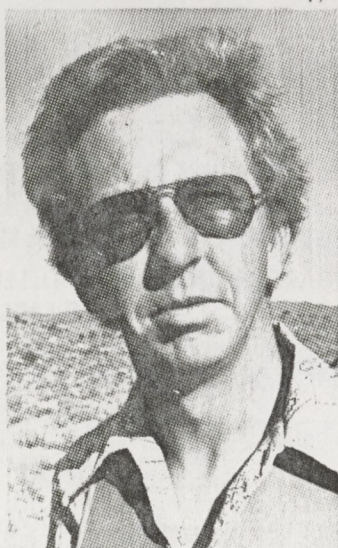
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THOMAS, Continued

ington (about 21%) and other political action, or special interest, groups elsewhere. California's part of the campaign amounted to about 37%.

Swajian was asked if the various committees and political action groups were not front organizations for corporate or special interests. She pointed out in reply that it is against the law for corporations to make donations for federal candidates, although they can support state officials. (Thomas had been an assemblyman before he ran for the congressional seat.)

Swajian gave an example of the realtors' donations to the Thomas campaign. "No one corporation can pass its donations through a political action committee," she said, "but in our case it was predominantly individuals in the real estate business who wanted to go to Thomas, and they put their contributions through the PAC's."

At Washington, the congress of which Thomas is a member has been a congress that has shied away from the proposal to federally fund congressional campaigns. On all major issues, with the exception of two, congress has shown a reluctance to act on much of anything. Congress-watchers and political pundits claim that the congressmen are taking a wait-and-see attitude on matters of new programs.

Thomas said in a recent newsletter to his 18th district constituency that Inyo County's economy could be "hurt" by the "RARE II" proposal. He foresaw better news for Tulare, Kern and LA Counties if certain multination-

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al trade agreements are ratified by congress (So far, no action on that), and also a boost for the Antelope Valley in the Carter proposal to increase defense spending by 3%.

If the farmers of the western slope bet their money on a winner, they will also appreciate Thomas' clout as a member of the house agriculture committee.

And the congressman is also a member of another important committee - House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, or "ethics committee." Serving there, Thomas will be looking over such matters as donations to congressional campaigns.

Toward the end of the week, as the story on Thomas' campaign donations was being prepared, there were several attempts to reach him for comment. Swajian, however, took over the task of dealing with reporters, saying that Thomas was "in conference," but that he "might call back on Saturday." He did not. ■

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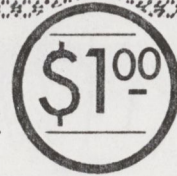
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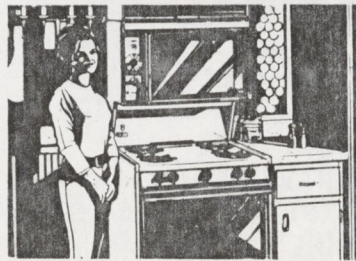
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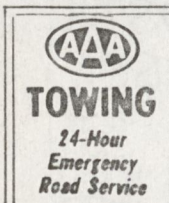
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NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

the previous day, due to the news leak - and the board went into executive session to talk it over. After the executive session Board Chairman Payne said he could not discuss what occurred in the session, or the full content of the petition, but he did confirm that it asked for Zeutzius' dismissal. It was learned from a private news source, however, that about half the members of the licensed staff had signed the petition. The news source said that the "common complaint" of the signers is that "they don't want to answer to or take direction from someone they feel knows less than they do, that is Zeutzius and the board members." It became ever more apparent that certain elements in the hospital staff were attempting to sustain a power position that, in effect, gave them direction over the hospital; but Payne and the others were having none of it. Asked if the board had "any plans to fire Zeutzius," or to bend to the staff demands, Payne replied "No way. As far as Jerry is concerned, the board will not be pressured into changing administration.

"Those employees who have taken the position of trying to pressure the board will not be discriminated against in their employment,

SIERRA PACIFIC, Continued

"The federal law is clear," he says. "It pre-empts the state. I believe California is the only state that still thinks it has jurisdiction."

As for the profit-loss argument about Bishop air service, Thorsrud says "No airline has ever made money in Bishop. We're losing \$2,000 a week. We were a little disappointed. We thought the Fresno run would be a good run but it wasn't."

And further in defense Thorsrud argues that "We have another problem, too. You should not fly over 12,000 feet in an unpressurized plane - and so for safety and economy we're pulling out."

Bishop may not be alone in its struggle to keep an air service. It has also come to light in recent days that on April 25 in the nation's capital hearings will begin on the CAB's "de-regulation" of the airlines. And, says Ms. Cory, "Across the nation, hundreds of little towns are screaming about this."

"Screaming" may or may not have much to do with the future of small-town airline service. For years, some airlines have thrown out the crumb of limited suburban service in order to garner the loaf of the big air routes, the small-town service being a condition of gaining CAB's big-route service blessing.

What will happen if Bishop does in fact lose its air service? For a few, a prosperous and affluent few, the solution is no big problem. Those who can afford it will support a more-or-less regular charter service. This will leave "flying" to the elitest areas of the wealthy and the ski crowd.

Inyo, meanwhile, is the home of several lower-income medical patients (some of them needing the airline to fly them south for cancer treatments) and small business owners whose goods and services and suppliers will suffer for lack of air service.

Is there then much chance of "forcing" Sierra Pacific to remain? Observers and legal experts reluctantly agree: No, not much. ■

but it is the responsibility of the board and its duty to manage the hospital in the most prudent and expeditious manner - and we will not give that up. We do appreciate the loyalty of the majority of the employees - and also their delivery of excellent medical care." As the stormy week drew to a close Payne had announced plans for a public forum for employees and board members "to hash out their problems." "I have been informed by some substantial citizens," said Payne, "that Mr. Zeutzius is doing a good job and they want him to stay." The issue raised once more the philosophical question of who should have "control" of a hospital - the professional or semi-professional employees, or the management elected to the board; at Southern Inyo Hospital, it would appear that in recent years it has become the question. Payne and the board members seem to have their work cut out for them in finding answers suitable to all the factions involved.

What actions or omissions prompted the petition in the first place? News sources in the hospital itself said that some employees had been angered by Zeutzius' firing of a hospital employee, "one of the people that had been stirring up the trouble."

IN INYO COUNTY THERE HAD LONG BEEN THE THEORY, one dearly cherished and carefully nurtured, that the establishment of a housing agency might create an influx of "welfare types" into the county. It was believed, and is still believed by many, that low-cost housing encourages the less affluent to move here. The belief is not entirely invalid. But lately, faced with an increasingly critical housing shortage, there has occurred a certain movement toward providing such housing; the people who do the work, it seems, have no place to live.

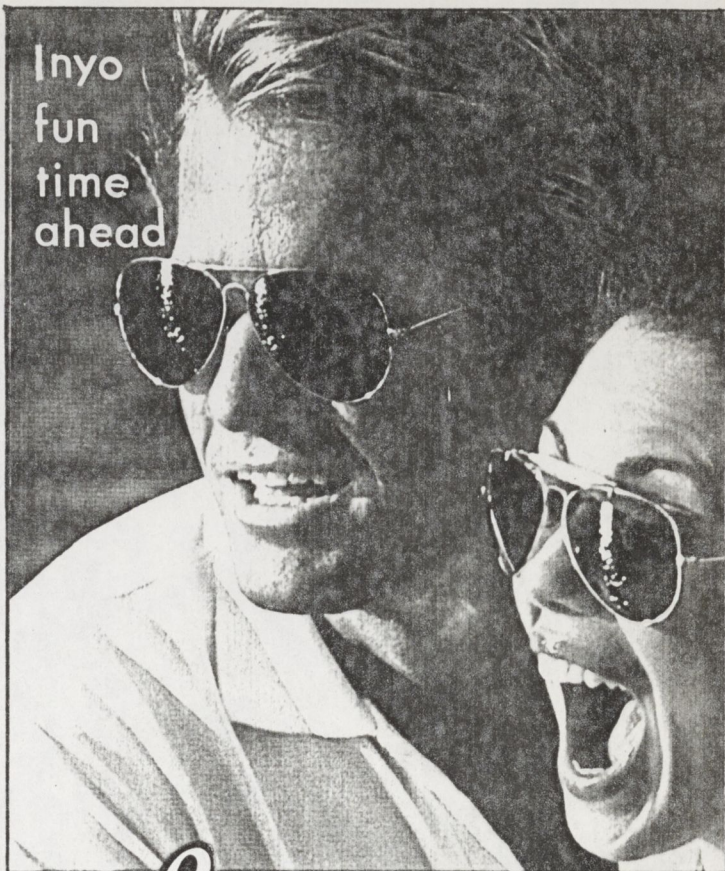
Finally, last week, the board of supervisors took action on the issue. They approved the formation of a county housing authority. The county's Indian population did that long ago, and now the reservations are enjoying a proliferation of new, modern houses that much of the rest of the county find enviable. A Bishop engineer - former assistant to the county's public works department - Roger Glidden, along with Bob Vance, the former Indian Housing Authority director, had appeared several weeks ago before the supervisors to outline the potential benefits to be gained from a housing authority. Such an agency would provide, among other things, a means for the county to obtain grant money for low-cost housing projects. The county rarely turns a deaf ear to any project that allows it to get grant money.

As Glidden then put it: "These programs exist, and the county may as well take advantage of them." The housing projects would - or could - be put on the local ballots leaving it up to the voters as to whether various projects would go through - unless, as one provision makes clear, "an outside developer does the job."

Now that the tide seems to be moving in the direction of public acceptance of a housing authority, it is reported that some Bishop officials want to get in on the action. But that will come later. First, the authority must be established.

Said Supervisor Johnny Johnson: "People
(Continued next page)

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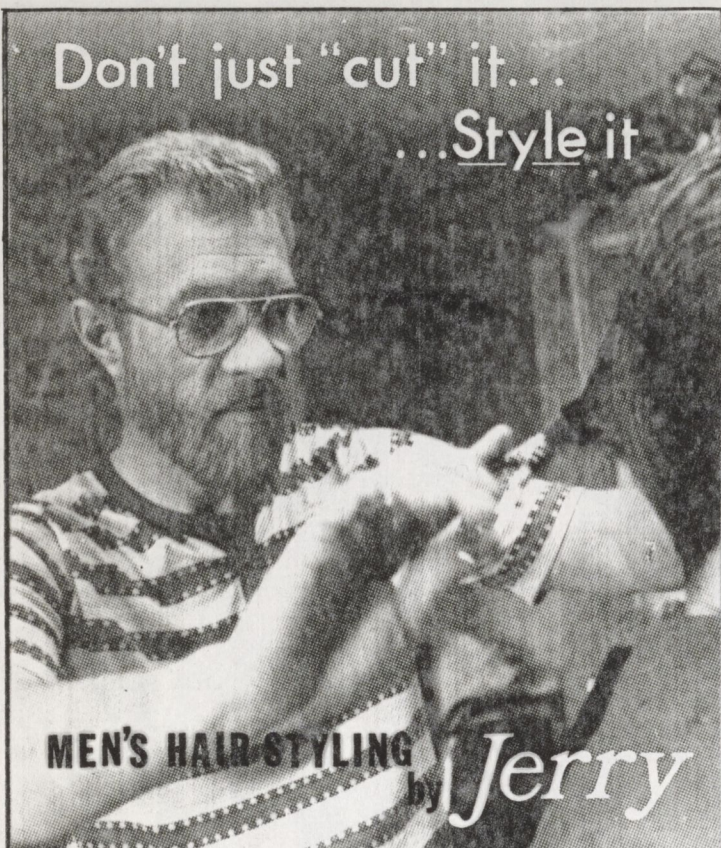
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NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

on fixed incomes have showed me their power bills, their water rates - and they live in what would be called sub-standard housing. The day is coming when we are going to have to do something." Many in the county think that "The day" has long since passed. Prompted by that thought, the supervisors acted. The vote favoring establishment of a housing authority was 4 to 1. Supervisor "Lefty" Irwin voted no because, as he claimed, "the City of Bishop should be involved."

"THIS IS ALMOST TO THE POINT OF EMBARRASSMENT," commented Supervisor Richard McDonald. And well it was and should be. For months, the supervisors have voted pro and con in the matter of the "in lieu park fees," so-called - money collected by the county from developers and land owners on the idea that the county is to build "parks" or provide "greenspace" in the areas involved. The county failed at the outset to plan realistically the building of such parks, but the cash rolled in. At the meeting in which the issue came up again last week (It is on the agenda again for this week), there were not a few in the boardroom audience sighing with exasperation and suppressing a tittering glee. It was, as McDonald so succinctly put it, an "embarrassment." The park fee ordinance had been revised, then repealed entirely, revised again - and then repealed again. The supervisors, it seemed, lacked the direction to know what if anything they wanted to do about the fast-growing but totally unproductive fund. Home and lot owners who had paid in thousands of dollars had been

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told they'd see a park here and there. The supervisors' final (or is it?) repeal of the park fee ordinance was not a little prompted by the handful of angry developers who turned up at the meeting. And there had been phone calls from a constituency asking a lot of questions of the supervisors (One Bishop man paid up to \$800 just to get a lot of his divided into two parcels). The developers present - all members of the Inyo Contractors Association - were led by their spokesman, Association President Sam Dean. "In 10 years," he said, "ten percent of the people will be footing the bill for new parks. I don't think we need new parks. If people in a given area want parks, let them form a district and pay for them." Then Dean told the supervisors: "Don't tax people just to put money into a fund when it is not necessary. Look back at Proposition 13, and what the people were trying to tell you. Get away from this socialist type of thinking and get back to Democracy; that's what this is, isn't it?"

The supervisors were clearly moved by the angry outburst. Supervisor Wilma Muth moved to repeal the ordinance and - again - it passed. The vote was narrow: 3 to 2, with Supervisors Johnson and Engel voting no. The others were hoping that that, finally, was that.

AND WHAT'S IN THE AIR THESE DAYS? Whatever it is, the county's southern residents are choking on it; it is coming off the Owens dry lake bed, and the air pollution people have set up monitoring stations to study it. Presumably, it is soda ash, a substance hard on people

(NEWS BRIEFS Continued on Page 17)

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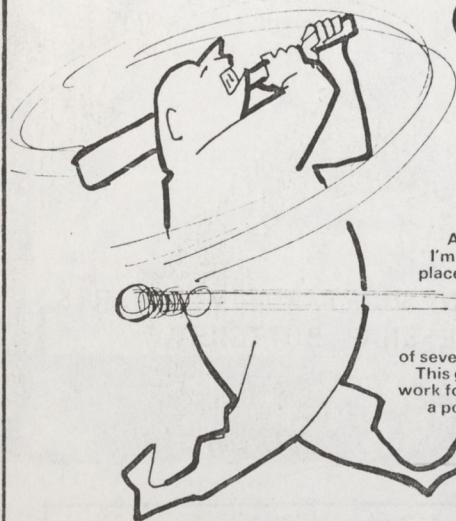
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Fire blackens 259 acres



Fire officials were hesitant to verify that the brush fire that broke out south of Bishop this week was started by a DWP crew burning debris near Rawson Creek in the Collins Road area. "We are still investigating," said one, "but it is unlikely that anyone else would be burning on DWP land. The blaze, whipped by an erratic 15-30 mph wind, quickly spread in all directions. Before it was over elements and crews from state forestry, city and federal agencies helped suppress it. A special strike force called in from Riverside was available and may have saved further damage when, 24 hours later, a new eruption began. Grasslands and a large grove of cottonwood trees **were destroyed**. Smoke was visible from as far south as Independence.

Photo: Les Hall

NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

with respiratory problems. Recent high winds have left a lot of people wheezing and with a bad, acidic taste in their mouths. Chuck Fryxell, the APCD's local spokesman, said "We're quite concerned with it." He said he will study results of the monitoring - then plan for "some solution."

solution in support of the Bishop Chamber of Commerce members who would like to see the Brown Act amended. The amendment, if passed, would allow DWP to put its properties up for open bid - as the chamber members requested at their meeting last week.

THE SUPERVISORS AGREE WITH THE DWP LESSEES (See Story, P. 18). This week they voted a re-

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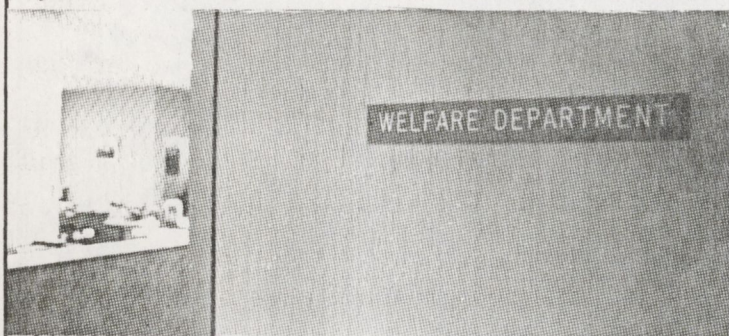
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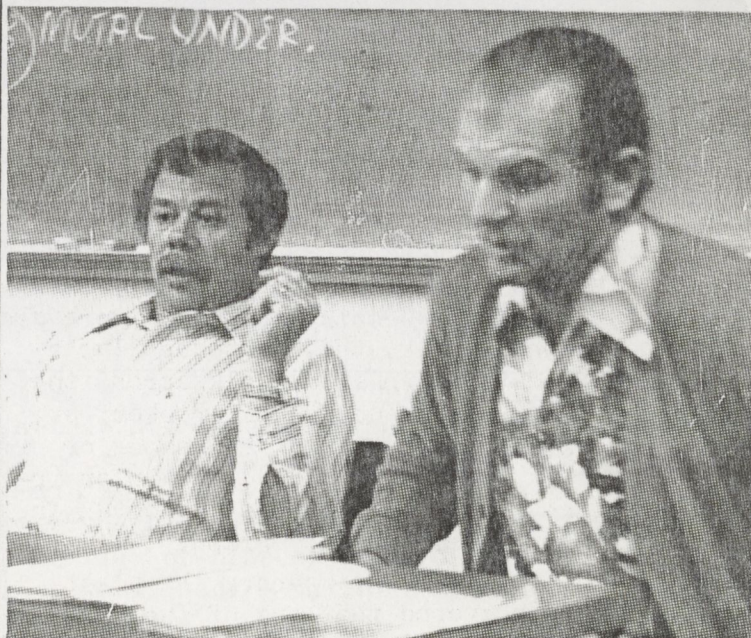
The DWP LEASES

Change the Brown Act?

By BENETT KESSLER
Photos: John Heston

PROMPTED BY BISHOP CHAMBER OFFICIALS, A NUMBER OF DWP LESSEES VOTE AN ENTHUSIASTIC "YES," BUT OTHERS CLAIM THAT THEY ARE PLAYING INTO THE DWP HAND

"I KNOW," said Bishop Chamber of Commerce President Jim Lackey, "that talk about DWP can be emotional...but those other issues have no bearing on tonight..." And with that



Lackey and Chamber Manager Denton Sonke
"Talk about DWP can be emotional"

statement Lackey opened a special meeting with Bishop's DWP lessees - the businessmen and professional people who, like it or not, must rent their stores and offices from the county's biggest landlord, the Department of Water and Power.

The "lease issue" had been much discussed over the past two or three years, ever since the department, in what many called a "punitive action," had cut the long term leases of many of its tenants. The department owns, and arbitrarily manages, about 150 of the county's business houses. And of late, ever since the county's lawsuits against DWP, the colonials had been restive.

Lackey, as president of the chamber, wanted to know in terms of consensus what the chamber members wanted to do about the properties they occupied and depended on for their livelihood. He called the meeting that was held in the Bank of America's conference room.

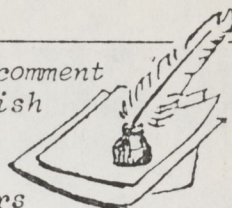
The question at hand had to do with gaining longer-term leases and, if possible, the right to purchase from DWP the property on which most of Bishop conducts its business.

The Brown Act and how the legislature would have to change it, has been a favorite leaning post of the department for a long time. The law allows a tenant to have "first right of refusal" if his lease property is sold - that means he gets first crack at buying it, a protection against a new landlord playing fast and easy with his lease. But it is DWP's claim - or excuse - that the City of Los Angeles can't sell its property that way, that the city charter - another DWP fallback - says that city lands and properties must be sold at public auction with the highest bid-

(See LEASES on Page 20)

FORUM your view

The Inyo County News-Letter welcomes letters and comment relevant to current issues. The editors will publish here those views concisely stated and considered timely. Letters and statements should be address-



ed to PO Box 531, Independence 93526. The editors remind News-Letter's readers that publication of a letter on this page does not necessarily imply that the editors agree with its content, or that the editors guarantee accuracy of the letter.

THE MONO LAKE BLAST: ONLY HALF THE STORY

News-Letter -

On a recent Monday afternoon I joined the news reporters aboard the CH-47 National Guard transport helicopter at Mono Lake. The reporters were shuttled to the blast site (where guardsmen attempted to blast a land bridge connecting Negit Island with the shore) in order to witness the detonation of 1500 pounds of dynamite and nitroglycerine - a spectacular display of "fireworks and grown men playing in the mud." The outcome of this spectacle (with helicopter costs running to \$1500 an hour) was disappointing to say the least.

As may be suspected, most of the mud fell straight back into the hole from which it had been so violently excavated. Consequently, a man (or a predator) can still walk across the land bridge to invade the seagull rookery on Negit Island by merely getting his shoes or paws muddy (as the case may be). And in an ironic sequence of events, not one photographer got an "after the blast" photograph!

As the reporters approached the blast site it was discovered that one of the charges of explosive had not detonated (later proved false), and the press representatives were immediately warned away. Having endured 45 minutes of waiting in a bitter cold wind, they needed little urging. As an unfortunate result of this episode, most of the reporters returned home without evidence substantiating the effectiveness of the (several) days' activities.

You have only got half the story, the unimportant half. The net result of this event is not as positive (in regard to saving Mono Lake) as might be expected, when one reviews the subtle implications.

Clearly, the news coverage of the event (estimated by David Dick, Department of Fish and Game representative and press coordinator, to reach a staggering "50 million television viewers") will bring some nationwide attention to the ecological destruction of Mono Lake - much to the credit of the Mono Lake Committee.

However, even if the current blasting was not the dismal failure that anyone can see it is, it creates a highly publicized impression that the "problem is being dealt with," when in fact it does not begin to address the crucial dilemma of Mono Lake.

There is only one solution to Mono Lake's survival: more water in the lake through less diversion of water from the basin on the part of the LA DWP! These stopgap measures such as the landbridge blasting are denuding the real issue and creating the illusion of remedial action. In this regard, the highly publicized blasting can do more harm than good - with all due respect to the people involved with the best intentions.

At this point, I believe the most effective strategy that the Mono Lake Committee can take is to publicly (and regrettably) admit failure of the measure, and to make use of the

recent publicity (before it cools off) in an effort to bring the issue to a direct confrontation with the DWP. This must be done, of course, as discreetly as possible in regard to people and agencies who provided support for the blasting. Nevertheless, Mono Lake has now reached a critical stage of its survival, and the situation calls for immediate initiative on the part of concerned individuals - not procrastination.

I strongly suggest that you keep abreast of this issue and give it your highest priority. It is not every day that our regional environmental survival receives nationwide publicity, and we must be right on top of it if we are to make the most out of it. I would suggest that you send a photographer up here immediately, and that you take an editorial position that reflects the Mono Lake Committee's latest strategy. Any members of the Eastern Sierra News Service who need accommodations at Mono Lake are welcome to stay in my home, and I will do what I can to keep you updated as to current developments.

- Steve Busch
Lee Vining

(Editor's note: News-Letter has already sent a photographer to record the Mono blast aftereffects (or lack of them), and he is on his way to New York where he will contact at least two national magazines that have shown interest in the Inyo-Mono water story)

"FENDER-BENDER": A QUESTION OF DEFINITIONS AT LONE PINE

Dear B.K.

87 yards or 261 feet would do a little more than just a "fender-bender." Several people - "citizens" - measured those skid marks. I think you should get glasses when you call a cop car totalled and a pickup with a camper totalled a "fender-bender."

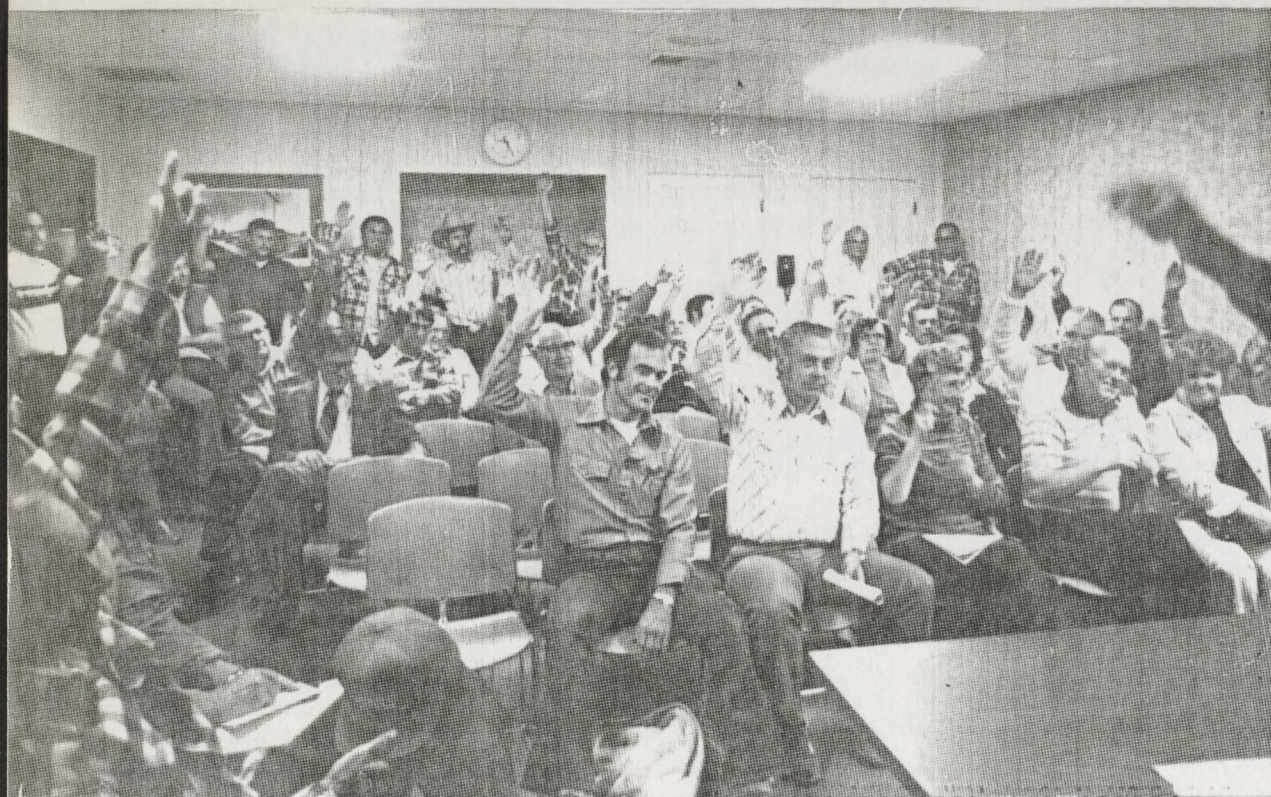
Why don't you check yourself to get the correct news?

And yes, we would call it in if we ever heard of the sheriff's department doing a good deed.

- Unsigned
Lone Pine

(Editor's note: News-Letter's B.K. is not overly eager to respond to - or even print - anonymous letters. However, the unknown writer affords the opportunity for an explanation, which follows: The term "fender-bender" is in news-jargon any accident in which no injuries are incurred, and another way news men refer to any accident (i.e., non-injury accident) that (usually) goes unreported. News-Letter is not unaware of the extensive damage caused in the accident mentioned, but sees little value in making out of it a cause celebre just because, or only because, an officer was involved in it.)

(FORUM Continued, next page)



The "ayes" had it, 37 to 1, as Lackey called for a show of hands. The one "nay" vote was cast by Earl Brown (in far right corner), who said "I feel very secure with the Brown Act and with LA in the past. I don't want any change." The voters followed the lead of DWP's single long-term lessee, Jim Nikolaus.

LEASES, Continued

der taking all to do with as he pleases. And, the department further says, the Los Angeles City Charter has precedence over state law. ("And I guess over the Ten Commandments, too," commented one wag attending the meeting.)

So far, the charter has never been challenged in the state courts. Lackey said that "The DWP believes the city charter prevails on some issues, and nobody will gain if they test the constitutionality of the Brown Act in the courts. We're at loggerheads here until one gives way to the other. Until then we're not going to do a damned thing."

But one Bishop businessman "did something" - somehow, but as yet nobody else is quite sure how he pulled it off. Jim Nikolaus managed to get a 15-year lease for a gas station property - a term unheard of in these days of DWP crackdowns. "How," ask some other businessmen privately, "did he get the long-term lease, when we're stuck with five-year leases with no options to renew?"

The DWP's own lease-and-property manager, H.B. Jeter, provided a possible answer to their questions: "Nikolaus said 'I want you to sell the property, and if the Brown Act Amendment comes up I'll support it.' We said that if we ever did something on land sales we'd need a volunteer. Nikolaus is it." It was

Nikolaus who approached the DWP with the idea, according to Jeter.

And, true to his word, Nikolaus attended the meeting, strongly urging other lessees to support an amendment to the Brown Act. The act was created by Senator Charles Brown many years ago as a protection for this county against DWP.

As to the wisdom of an amendment, news men checked with District Attorney L.H. "Buck" Gibbons who was cool to the idea: "I understand that there is a verbal part to this package. The amendment is written, but the promise of a long-term lease is not. If DWP does not give 15-year leases, then presumably none of the lessees would file requests for public auctions. This possibly sets the stage for DWP ... If the people clamor 'Why doesn't the department sell land?', then they have the perfect response: 'We'd like to, but we have no written requests for selling land.'"

"Now if you assume the good faith of the department, the amendment is at least arguable, however the people of the county view the department's good faith." Although Gibbons was guarded in his comment, he did say that "I would be very slow to recommend that the county support the amendment." Asked why the city can't simply back down on its charter and save a lot of trouble, the DWP's Inyo man, Jim Wickser said, "It's not only the charter; it's the government code. Surplus property must go to public auction. It's a matter of trust in government: If we negotiated sales with private interests, the trust wouldn't be there. This is like every other government deal. Sometimes they're flakey, but that's the way it is."

But the businessmen gathered for the special meeting felt they had it clear in their own minds. They voted 37-1, signalling the chamber, in effect, to get on with seeing what it might do about an amendment.

Are they playing into the hand of the DWP? For now, no one seems to know, and besides it's a long way from the chamber of commerce to getting action in Sacramento.

It appeared, however, that the DWP people at the meeting were not at all displeased with the new direction that things seemed to be taking.

FORUM, Continued

Dear Editor:

You received a letter critical of your display of pictures of the fatal accident in which four young people died on Highway 395 some weeks ago. I would like to speak out in support of your handling of the wreck.

I am a teacher and have been associated with school children for some time. I believe this sort of display of the tragedy in traffic mishaps has a deterrent effect. When kids see pictures like that, it may make them think twice - the same goes for adults.

I have also been associated with the fire department for five years, and the things I have seen keep me driving at 55 mph.

- Ray Levitt
Big Pine

Notes From B.K.



BENETT KESSLER

SOUND AND FURY SIGNIFYING NOTHING: Reports from several sources say that the big Mono Lake blasts to cut the land bridge to Negit Island were far less successful than they may have appeared to be. It seems now that the big boom may have created a big media blast, but not much else, and folks up around Lee Vining concerned with saving the lake and the Negit seagull rookery are expressing a great deal of disappointment in the National Guard effort. They say the "channel" that was to be blasted won't last through the summer and that even now animal - or human - predators can easily wade the shallows to the island. One letter-writer expresses his view, a good one in our minds, on this week's *FORUM* page.

I GUESS WE'RE A LOT LIKE OTHER PEOPLE - all for "wilderness" so long as it's located on somebody else's territory, but strongly against it when it cuts into our own mining, timbering and land-use activities. The real problem goes much farther: the proliferation of people in the past three decades. Nobody has any real elbow room anymore, and we're all so jammed up together nobody has any room to move. More about all that elsewhere in these pages.

JIM SMITH'S OFF TO NEW YORK AGAIN. He's the photographer who recently joined the staff of our modest publication. Jim's proud as punch (and should be) about his six-page photo story in the new *PENTHOUSE* magazine - a yarn about the nation's hoboes who held a "convention" in the Mid-west. (Jim's not in the girlie-pix business and deals with *PENTHOUSE*'s "serious" coverage.) Smith recently finished coverage of the Long Beach *Grand Prix* for the same mag and now he's in New York on assignment for the New York Convention Bureau. Also while there, he is talking to publishers about his recent extensive coverage of the Owens Valley water issue and the Mono Lake controversy. He'll be back on our pages in a couple of weeks.

ADD TO OUR VERY PLEASANT PEOPLE LIST (By popular acclaim): Dr. Bill Smart, the Lone Pine veterinarian. A lot of people express their thanks to him in helping their pets and their livestock, and what they call his friendly open manner.

SO NOW THE STORY'S OUT, ALTHOUGH THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE PROJECT WANTED TO KEEP IT LOW-KEYED: The story is that the owners of Lone Pine's Dow Villa Hotel have plans for a five-story motel-restaurant-office building complex, and that they had approached the planning department to find out what laws, regulations, etc., would form the guidelines for such a structure. And they had asked that the project be kept quiet since at that time it was only a "plan." But Planning Director Doug Sherburne let the cat out of the proverbial bag - He mentioned the plan at a public meeting of the board of supervisors.

NEW WEST MAGAZINE has discovered wildflowers and in a piece in the current issue says this year will be a banner year for wildflower watching - especially in the Death Valley area. *NEW WEST* listed under its "best locations" the area near Furnace Creek and also mentioned Independence's Mary DeDecker as a wildflower authority in this area.

HEY, WHAT'S A "BURN-DAY" ANYWAY, AND WHO SAYS WHEN YOU CAN, OR CAN'T, BURN TRASH? Well, a "burn-day" is in fact only half a day, that is the period before noon. And who determines what days are okay for starting a fire? Would you believe Sacramento? It's true, the Air Pollution Control District resources board uses "meteorological criteria" (i.e., the weather report) "to determine....for each air basin in the state...whether smoke would disperse properly." That determination is made on the afternoon prior to the next "burn day." It's pretty obvious that Sacramento has a lot to learn about sudden wind and weather changes in the Owens Valley, and that's why you'll sometimes see some trash fires burning furiously in a high wind.



"Doug and Marc" playing at Whiskey Creek
Getting away from the click-bang beat

dropping in on this pair, then you'll agree that news people should sometimes hand out free plugs, which this clearly - and enthusiastically - is. Doug and Marc are good news.

...AND MAY THE NEWS IN YOUR DAY BE GOOD NEWS, every day....

- Sincerely,

BK

PEARSON'S PLAN, Continued

savings could be channeled directly by the merchants to the chamber of commerce, or for that matter, the American Cancer Society or even into their own pockets."

The councilman came under considerable criticism from some in the business community last year when he had suggested that the chamber should be responsible for its own collections. He sees a savings for consumers since merchants' costs would be reduced - and also a savings to the city in paper work involved in collecting the fees.

Pearson also suggests that the 6% "transient occupancy tax" - the tax levied to people staying at Bishop's motels - be reduced to 5%. "Based on the estimated transient occupancy tax of 78-79 of \$155,000, this could be a consumer savings of \$25,800. Motel owners, so inclined, could raise their rates by one percent to account for this tax revenue loss to the city and then use this money for whatever purpose they wished to - to the chamber of commerce to promote the town, to whomever, or to themselves."

Despite his early run-in with the chamber issue, Pearson continues to try again. He believes that the city's general fund, which is also supported by individual tax payers, is no proper promotional trough at which the business community should feed.

"When we add the savings to the consumer and the merchant - \$31,400 and \$25,800, the total is \$57,200, substantially larger than the money that the chamber has been allocated before. I'm asking for support of the chamber and I believe this to be a healthy recommendation, not only for the taxpaying community, but for the chamber as well."

Pearson said he would also like to see the city government do away with the use-charge on the sewer system. He said he will elaborate on this plan in talks he hopes to make before various civic and service groups.

In the sewer use charge, he commented that "a sewer system is a priority. We all need it, we all use it, and all of us as far as many people can see have already paid taxes for it - It is a service needed by everyone, not just a select group." He did not elaborate on the "select group" reference.

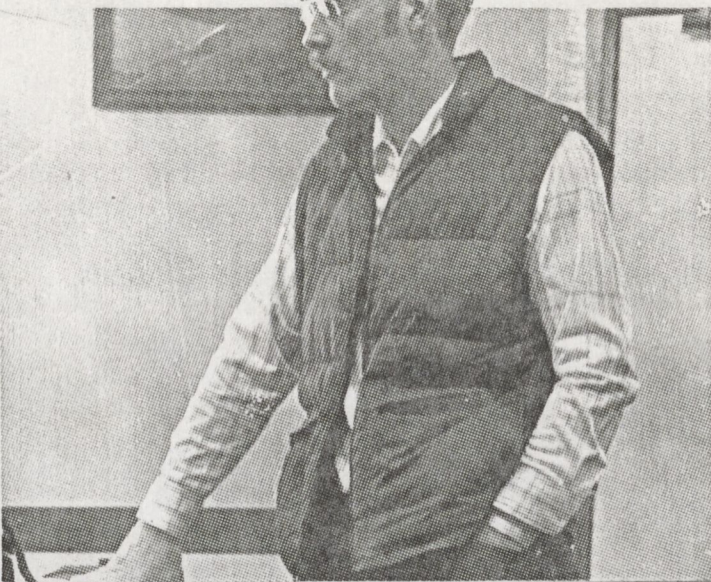
Has Pearson talked over his ideas with other members of the city council? Not, apparently, to any great extent, although it is also apparent that most of them know where he stands. It is not untypical of the councilman to take his ideas before the constituency before hashing them out among other politicians. Early on - even before his election - he had stressed "contact" with "the people" as his basis for action.

Some businessmen and certainly some of those close to the operations of the chamber of commerce - themselves supporters of ideas that would reduce taxes and de-bureaucratize government - may have some questions about Pearson's plan to let individuals, rather than the general fund, support the town's promotional campaigns. They are not unaware of the realities: that some businessmen would be quick to pocket the tax savings and let the chamber go begging; also to be considered is the cost to the chamber of commerce of inducing the business community to forward the tax or fee savings into the chamber's own coffer.

The fee "collecting" would fall then on the chamber itself, rather than on the city government. As the city administration knows, it costs a lot of money and paperwork to "collect" anything. It is Pearson's view, clearly, that he disapproves of "the people" - who may or may not benefit directly by promoting the business community - having to bear the cost out of their own hard-paid taxes to collect money for the chamber of commerce.

Another reality - certainly one of which Pearson is aware - is the fact that not all of Bishop's business houses would instantly reduce their prices and pass along any tax or fee savings to "the people." Landlords all over California demonstrated that tendency when given the tax cuts of Jarvis; most of them instantly increased rather than decreased rent charges.

All arguments and "realities" aside, however, Pearson's plan would - in the best of all possible worlds - be a sincere step in the "right direction" of the spirit of Jarvis. Government as such is unneeded as personal responsibility actively asserts itself, and it is toward that loftier goal that, presumably, Pearson intends to move. It may be, in fact, "a start" toward fulfilling Jarvis' promise.



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